

OUTDOORS

I NEVER HEARD ABOUT A RECALL, BUT IN 1998 I CAME VERY CLOSE TO SHOOTING MY MOTHER, WITHOUT TOUCHING THE TRIGGER, WHILE UNLOADING. Sec. 3

# Regimen Should Begin With Guns

## Manufacturers Announce Bolt Safety Upgrades

EVE KNIGHT

Staff Writer

potentially dangerous trigger on older rifles led Remington to announce it is offering a safety modification program to eliminate the bolt-lock mechanism on certain Remington bolt-action centerfire firearms made between March 1970 and March 1982.

Remington's announcement last week makes it the second manufacturer in recent months to announce a bolt recall on its rifle line. Weatherby announced a bolt recall on its Vanguard series rifles in January.

The Remington program comes one year after a Montana youth accidentally shot his mother while unloading her Remington rifle. The rifle, like many older bolt-action rifles, featured a bolt lock that required the trigger to be taken off safety to be unloaded. The accident occurred immediately after the rifle was off safety without the trigger

being touched.

Those participating in the program will have their firearm modified to eliminate the bolt-lock feature, making it possible to unload the firearm while the safety is on. Remington officials say the conversion will have no other effect on the firearm.

Remington estimates about 2.5 million bolt-action rifles were manufactured before 1982.

"There are a lot of 700s out there," said Tyler gun repairman Dexter Jordan. "I had one in the shop (Wednesday)." Jordan said he had personally never heard of one of the rifles going off on its own, but sees how it could happen if a person accidentally hit the trigger. He said the problem could be compounded if the trigger pull has been adjusted below factory specifications.

Besides the early-model 700s, other models included in the program include the 600, 660, 721, 722, 40-X and XP-100 target pis-

tols. In the process, Remington will remove the bolts, clean and inspect the rifles for \$20, plus shipping and handling charges. In return, the gun owners will receive a \$20 coupon good toward the purchase of Remington products.

Owners of some 600s, 660s and XP-100s which were not already upgraded will receive the service free because of a previous recall in 1979.

Remington does not list affected serial numbers, but gun owners can call (877) 387-6691 for further information or take their rifle to a certified Remington Service Shop. There are two in the Dallas area: McClelland Gun Shop, 1533 Centerville Road, Dallas; and Lone Star Guns, 1170 E. Park Blvd at Avenue K in Plano. Additional information is available at the company's Web site, [www.remington.com](http://www.remington.com).

Weatherby's safety notice is for the bolts of all Vanguard rifles made between 1970 and 1993.

According to the company, the rifle's bolt could break, causing the gun to accidentally discharge without the bolt being fully engaged.

Affected Vanguards include those with serial numbers 00001 through 03810, V00001 through V80966, VX00001 through VX44065, VS00001 through VS23699, VL00001 through VL46984, W0001 through W0099 and NV0001 through NV0099.

Weatherby is asking rifle owners to send in only their bolts that will be upgraded and returned.

For more information on the Weatherby upgrade, call (800) 227-2018 or visit the company's Web site at [www.weatherby.com](http://www.weatherby.com).

While both companies do not recommend using the rifles until repairs have been made, Jordan said gun owners could reduce the chances of accidents by always pointing the rifle toward the ground while unloading.

"Being careless is the No. 1 cause of gun accidents," he said.

MY RIFLE. FORTUNATELY IT WAS AIMED STRAIGHT AT THE GROUND.